

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of John Sturdivant, a good friend of mine and a good friend of hundreds of thousands of Federal employees, including those he knew personally and those whom he never met. John died after a courageous struggle with cancer on Tuesday night. His death and the loss of his leadership are devastating blows to his family, his friends, and all Federal employees. I will miss him very much.

As president of the American Federation of Government Employees since 1988, John was an outstanding champion of Federal employees during a time of rapid downsizing and unprecedented attacks against Federal employees.

He was a wonderful ally to have in our fight for Federal employees. We worked together to successfully reform the Hatch Act and give Federal employees the political voice they deserve.

In 1995, we stood together protesting the deleterious and wasteful Government shutdowns. He presented not only compelling arguments against the Government shutdowns, but he also voiced the human costs of the Government shutdown in a very powerful way.

He successfully advocated the use of official time and led the charge against excessive Government privatization. John was there, with me and several of my colleagues, as we successfully fought against proposals to reduce Federal retirement benefits. He did not let partisan politics obstruct his pursuit of fairness for Federal employees. We supported one another, I valued his help, his guidance, and his bipartisan approach to Federal employee issues.

He was a man who was selfless in his dedication to AFGE. Enduring his illness, in and out of the hospital, he continued to speak out powerfully on issues involving our civil service.

I offer condolences to his companion, Peggy Potter, his daughter, Michelle Sturdivant, his mother, Ethiel Jessie, and his brother, stepbrother, and sister. May they be strengthened by his inspiration, his warm personality, and his achievements.

Madam Speaker, I honor the memory and the great accomplishments of John Sturdivant, a man who touched the lives of hundreds of thousands of people, and a man who will be greatly missed by all who knew him and by those for whom he fought, who never had the good fortune to meet him.

□ 1245

AN EXTRAORDINARY MONTH FOR WOMEN IN THE HOUSE AND IN THE COUNTRY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia [Ms. NORTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, this has been an extraordinary month for

women in the House and in the country, and I want to say a few words about women in both places; first, about women in the House, and then about two issues that concern women throughout the country.

On October 21 the women of the House, those who belong to the Women's Caucus, and that is virtually all of us, had our first ever gala. That gala was given to raise funds for Women's Policy, Inc., and it was a most successful event, with the President and the First Lady and the Secretary of State all coming to pay tribute to 20 years of achievement by women in Congress.

We set an extraordinary bipartisan example. The gentlewoman from Connecticut, Mrs. NANCY JOHNSON, is the Republican cochair this year. Last year the gentlewoman from New York, Mrs. NITA LOWEY was the Democratic cochair, and the gentlewoman from Maryland, Mrs. MORELLA, was the Republican cochair. They kept the caucus alive and bipartisan, and we were pleased to follow in their wake this year.

The caucus simply gets things done. It gets things done any way it can. Sometimes it is by getting policies changed; sometimes it is by getting laws changed. And what does the caucus have to show for 20 years from the work we have done? More women getting mammograms, and therefore a decrease in breast cancer and cervical cancer; the Pregnancy Discrimination Act; the Violence Against Women Act. It is a roster to be proud of.

But as it turns out, October was the awareness month for two concerns that women across the country have given the caucus as their own priorities, Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and Domestic Violence Month.

The Women's Caucus this very year waged a battle for mammograms for women over 40. This was in the tradition of the Women's Caucus, when it looked as though we were about to get a reversal in policy on that very issue. The science did not support a reversal, and we were able to get it changed based on the science.

We pride ourselves in not getting changes like that not on political grounds, and using the data that is provided us by Women's Policy, Inc., we were able to help turn that decision around. Now women at 40 should get a mammogram every year or every other year.

This is an important issue. It is important to have the focus of women in Congress on it, because since the early seventies the incidence of breast cancer has increased by 1 percent a year, and we do not know why. All we know is that we have to do something about it.

Actually, if mammograms are high quality they can spot breast cancer in women over 50 at a rate of 85 to 90 percent of the incidence of cancer. So we have made a lot of progress.

While we focused on the threat to women at 40, the fact is that I want to

remind everybody that it is women who are over 50 who are at greatest risk for breast cancer. If women aged 50 to 69 have regular mammograms, they can reduce their chances of death from breast cancer by one-third, and gradually, by bringing attention to this dreaded disease, we have been able to do something about it.

I do want to put into the record risk factors that are more specific than what we usually hear. These are the risk factors: Having had a previous breast cancer; a specific, identified genetic mutation that may make one susceptible to breast cancer; a mother, a sister, or a daughter, or two or more close relatives with a history of breast cancer, and that could be even cousins; a diagnosis of other types of disease that are pinpointed to predispose one to breast cancer; that is to say, breast disease that predisposes one to breast cancer; dense breast tissue, which makes it difficult to read a mammogram; and having a first child at age 30 or older.

Madam Speaker, this was also Violence Against Women Month. By observing and talking about this terrible epidemic in our country, we are finally bringing it out of its special closet. Some 3 out of every 100 women in this country have been severely assaulted by a partner, that is, not simply a slap, but severely assaulted. They had to go to the emergency room or get medical treatment.

Madam Speaker, I hope what the Women's Caucus has done helps us all to understand the value of the caucus to bring our attention to problems such as these.

THE TRUTH ABOUT VANDALISM AND ILLEGAL PROTEST IN DISTRICT OFFICE OF HON. FRANK RIGGS OF CALIFORNIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. RIGGS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RIGGS. Madam Speaker, it is rather unusual circumstances that bring me to the floor to address my colleagues during special orders, but I really feel compelled to make this statement because of some very, I think, one-sided, misleading reports that have appeared in the media recently regarding a protest that occurred at my district office in Eureka, CA, on October 16.

On that day, over 60 protesters stormed my office. They trespassed my office. They threatened, they actually accosted and assaulted my two employees working in the office at the time, both female employees, wonderful, dedicated employees by the names of Julie Rogers and Ronnie Pelligrini, who felt genuinely threatened and frightened for their safety when this incident began.

These protesters, however, four of whom were subsequently arrested, have now gone to the media, along with